Technology Goals and Funding and Non-Technical Alternatives Developed December 1999 at MIS Strategic Planning Meeting

The following suggestions were made during a brainstorming session to identify possible procurement, funding and technology strategies in order to resolve MIS issues. Suggestions not adoped in the 5-Year Technology Plan will be revisited for possible future application.

Technology Goals	How MIS Workgroup Will Address:
Define Core functionality for WIC systems	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.
Encourage technical and programmatic standards (such as design modularity), so that MIS systems are transferable	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.
Recognize the upgrade or replace cycles to keep pace with industry standards and performance needs - & plan for it	The plan is to replace systems as budget permits using established priorities.
Maintain and share information between states on the costs of developing and maintaining the systems	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.
Ensure a basic MIS that meets the core functionality	The plan is to replace systems as budget permits using established priorities.
Facilitate the state MIS initiative and enhancements in technology that enhance service quality and efficiency	This will be addressed through goals and objectives.
Encourage and accommodate EBT/ESD readiness	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.
Facilitate ways to develop and enhance computer communications and data exchange through emerging technologies	This will be addressed through EBT/ESD. FNS will consider emerging technologies as well for future projects
Support interoperability between WIC agencies in different states	This could be incorporated in the plan in the future.
Support EBT/ESD implementation	FNS will continue to show support for EBT/ESD.
System integration/interface with other State public programs	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.

Technical Alternatives	How MIS Workgroup Will Address:
Contract for a consensus based prototype system that meets core functionality, is modular and flexible, lessens the cost of adaptation, speeds the process for procurement, and has a built in capability for upgrades (functional) and technology updates. This becomes the benchmark for state systems. (functionality and cost). Different options would be built into the model (different data bases etc.).	FNS will explore the possibility of developing a model system(s) as part of the 5-Year Technology Plan.
Develop a set of national standards for items such as data fields etc. (use as a model the way we got consensus on EBT).	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.
Get industry inputs from industry about the possible designs of the system.	This will be done if development of a model system(s) is determined to be feasible.
Pursue multi-state joint procurements.	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.
Consider current state models as an option to start the national model	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.
Look at techniques such as consensus based development and getting input from local staff in the development of all new systems – make sure that locals are involved (Quality Circles).	This could be incorporated as a future Plan initiative.

Explore and maximize the use of the internet for service delivery and information transfer	This is currently being done through EBT.
Enhance forums for information sharing/showcasing at all levels (cost, service providers, potential improvements, good systems, development of systems, etc.)	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.
Transfer compliant systems from state to state	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.

Create a reporting system for cost data and share the information via the web	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.
One state becomes the service provider for another state	This could be incorporated as a future Plan initiative.
Cost sharing by building an integrated system with other agencies in the state	This will be addressed in the 5-Year Technology Plan.
A built-in upgrade cycle (2,5,10 yrs??) that is in the procurement contract	This is a State agency option within funding constraints.
Outsourcing / Privatization	This is a State agency option.
Establish incubator groups to enable small states to come up with new implementation & design to facilitate potential upgrades	This could be incorporated as a future Plan initiative.
Purchase of service (buy service – not product – can be multiple contracts for the entire system) (currently being done by Indiana)	This is a State agency option.
Build system with new development (independently)	This is a State agency option.
Lease system (in part of whole)	This is a State agency option.

Funding Alternatives	How MIS Workgroup Will Address:
Seek additional funding/ legislative actions from congress	The 5-Year Technology Plan discusses approaches for funding systems within current funding levels and estimates additional funds needed to achieve goals.
Change program rules	Further discussion is required.
Pursue and market WIC technology needs to other public & private funding and in-kind sources	This is a topic for future discussion.
Develop strategies to reduce dollar losses to treasury	This is a topic for future discussion.
Assess the current allocation of multipurpose funds and change the allocation process if appropriate	Requires legislative change.
Revisit the current multipurpose grant funding allocation on a regular (defined) time frame	This will be reassessed periodically.
Revisit the current alternatives on a regular interval	This will be reassessed periodically.
Improve the recovery & reallocation process	More clarification is needed on this topic.
Use option to extend the grant period	This would require a legislative change.
Use existing infrastructure and OA funding mechanisms	This is currently being done.
Clarify that MIS and EBT are priority for OA funding	This is currently being done.
MIS and EBT can be funded from regional infrastructure funds (700k / region)	Concensus was not reached on this.
Use annual multipurpose grant funds for the national model	If the decision is to develop a national model, funding sources will need to be explored.
Develop a list of potential funding sources that is available to the community (this would include both sources, parameters, and process for getting funding) match current WIC goals/needs to potential funding sources	This is a topic for future discussion.
Explore sources such as other government agencies, i.e. Commerce, GSA, CDC, HHS.	This is a topic for future discussion.
Explore sources such as Food manufacturers	This is a topic for future discussion.

Explore sources such as Private & non-profit orgs	This is a topic for future discussion.
Explore sources such as philanthropic orgs	This is a topic for future discussion.
Explore sources such as technical industries (Bill Gates etc.)	This is a topic for future discussion.
Investigate federal surplus rules	This is a topic for future discussion.
Explore sources inside FNS and USDA	This is a topic for future discussion.
Explore inter and intra-state/program procurements	This is a topic for future discussion.
Explore lobby/education sources	This is a topic for future discussion.
Explore sources such as product manufacturers	This is a topic for future discussion.
Explore sources such as vendors (grocers, etc.)	This is a topic for future discussion.
Retain 2.6 mil infrastructure funds for EBT	No change in current practice would be required.

Use ½ of 1% of total grant funds in carry forward authority for MIS & EBT development	No change in current practice would be required.
Obtain permission to use unspent funds from other agencies	This is a topic for future discussion.
Exempt current MIS development funds from the 1/6th nutrition education expenditure requirement	Legislative change would be required.
Brokering between states for grants such as EBT pilots (we need to determine how & if this can be done)	Clarification is needed on this topic.
Permission to use unspent WIC food funds to be reallocated to MIS	Legislative change is required.
Require strategic plans from states and regions (regional plan) to help prioritize MIS funding inside the region. This might include administrative costs and the relationship to MIS.	Further discussion is needed on this.
Permission to use unspent WIC administrative funds to be reallocated to MIS	Legislative change is required.
Reduce EBT allocation and move to MIS	This is not a viable option.
Ask for state appropriated funds	Further discussion is needed on this.